18. To encourage re-location of industries to India, plant and machineries would be permitted to be imported without a licence, where the depreciated value of such relocating plants exceeds Rs. 50 crores.

19. To induce more investment for R&D activities, a weighted deduction of 125% on the sums paid to any university, college or an institution or a scientific research association for the purposes of scientific social or statistical research is available.

20. For reduction of transaction time for export/import clearances, Ministry of Civil Aviation has finalised the scheme of 'Known Shippers' for doing away with the 24 hours cooling off period.

21. Two shifts have been introduced on week days and single shift on hoildays at the Air Cargo Complexes at Mumbai, Kolkata, Chennai, Bangalore, Hyderabad, Delhi and Goa.

22. Information Technology Act, 2000 dealing with Cyber Security, cybercrime and other information security related legal aspects is in place to encourage expansion of e-commerce through internet.

Vidya Vahini Project

938. SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI:
DR.T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Department of Information Technology has taken the VIP route to ensure free fund-flow for its ambitious Rs. 6,000 crore Vidya Vahini Project that aims to take computer education to 60,000 schools across the country in a matter of three years;

(b) if so, the districts where this pilot project is being introduced, State-wise; and

(c) what is the latest position in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI SU.THIRUNAVUKKARASAR):

(a) to (c) Department of Information Technology has formulated a specific programme 'Vidya Vahini' for implementation during the Tenth Five Year Plan to integrate internet tools and computer aided techniques into the learning environment. To start with, a pilot project is being implemented in 7 districts, namely, Kuppam (Andhra Pradesh), Gandhinagar (Gujarat), Hazaribagh (Jharkhand), South 24 Parganas (West Bengal), Parlivaijnath (Maharashtra), Lucknow and Allahabad (Uttar Pradesh). The equipments have been installed in all the selected schools at Lucknow, Allahabad, Kuppam, Gandhinagar and South 24 Parganas. Equipments have been installed in 15 schools in Parlivaijnath and in 10 schools in Hazaribagh.

Telephone connections in Rajasthan

†939. DR. ABRAR AHMED: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of telephone connections in Rajasthan and whether waiting list still exists in some districts of the State and if so, the names of such districts alongwith the number of the pending applications and by when these are likely to be cleared;

(b) by when 'telephones on demand' would be made available in the rural areas in the State and the reasons for not being it possible so far; and

(c) the year upto which telephone directory has been issued in Jaipur as well as in other districts and by when the current years' directory would be made available?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) and (b) As per available information M/s Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd. (BSNL) has 1 provided 17.40 lakh telephone connections by 31.1.2003 and has a waiting list of 144172 (district-wise break up given in Statement-I (*See* below), which it plans to clear by March, 2004 subject to availability of certain reliefs/resources in unremunerative far-flung rural areas where telephone on demand could not be made available so far due to non-availability of funds. M/s Shyam Telelink Ltd., the private operator has reported provision of 70443 telephone connections by 20th February, 2003 in Rajasthan and has no waiting list with availability of
telephone on demand in cities where its services are operational.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.